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FACT SHEET

**The Central America Citizen Security Partnership**

The United States is working with our partners in Central America, and with interested donor countries and international financial institutions, to deepen our commitment to enhance citizen security in Central America through a new and flexible approach: The Central America Citizen Security Partnership. This Partnership will help protect citizens of Central America, the United States, and the hemisphere, who are increasingly threatened by organized crime, gangs, and drug-fueled violence.

This new partnership reflects our understanding of the importance of citizen security as a priority concern of the people of Central America, and will build upon our efforts already underway there. For the United States, this means reviewing approximately \$200 million in funds under the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) to adapt to changing conditions, as well as a commitment to continuing support as appropriate. CARSI will assist countries in the region in breaking the power, violence, and impunity of drug, gang, and criminal organizations, and strengthening law enforcement, military, and judicial sector institutions to enable them to advance the rule of law, strengthen respect for human rights, and resist corruption. To do so with maximum effectiveness, we will strengthen coordination among all the U.S. government partners engaged in this effort.

In the spirit of flexible partnerships, and given the growing capacity and interest of our partners, this effort will be undertaken in coordination with Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Spain, the European Union, international financial institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, and multilateral organizations such as the OAS and the UN. The partnership effort will be focused on supporting the needs identified by the Central American governments through the Central American Integration System (SICA) regional security strategy, which will address violence, crime, drug trafficking, the underlying root causes of crime, and rule of law institutional capacity deficiencies, including efforts by leaders in the region to generate and marshal domestic capacities. The United States is also engaging the private sector in Central America to mobilize support for needed resources and encourage participation in public-private partnerships that support crime prevention and community programs.

To meet the challenges in Central America, the United States plans to direct resources, in close coordination with partners within and outside the region, toward five main objectives:

1. Safe Streets: Work with partner governments to reduce the levels of violence in the region to foster social and economic opportunity for the citizens of Central America.
2. Disrupt the Movement of Criminals and Contraband: Work with partner governments to prevent the transit of criminals and contraband to, through and within Central America to

reduce the ability of organized crime to conduct illicit activities and perpetuate the cycle of violence in the region.

3. *Strong, Capable, and Accountable Governments:* Work to reduce corruption and support our partners in their efforts to maintain properly trained and resourced law enforcement, rule of law institutions, and community action programs to create a culture of lawfulness.

4. *Effective State Presence in Communities at Risk:* Work with partner governments to expand law enforcement, judicial, social, and educational capacities and services to counter the activities and influence of organized crime.

5. *Enhanced Levels of Cooperation:* Support the development of coordinated action plans with Central America, building on the efforts of SICA, to harness the critical training and assistance capabilities of others, including Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, the European Union, and Spain, as well as international financial institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, and multilateral organizations, such as the OAS and the UN.

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